

*from the desk of....*

**Greg Preston  
Director**

During the 2007 growing season, Indiana farmers continued to face challenges with a positive attitude, hard work, and hope. Looking back at the 2007 growing season the big increase in cash receipts resulted in some positive outcomes for several sectors of Indiana's Agriculture. The increase in the average value of farm real estate also improved the outlook for farm families. Although farmers bottom-line showed a higher gross income, expenses continued to increase at a record level, especially for purchased inputs. Any optimism which developed from the 2007 growing season was tempered by the planting delays for 2008 and the tragic flooding that affected so many families and farms.

The goal of this publication remains unchanged. We aspire to help the public become better acquainted with and understand the current situation of Indiana's farming community. Hoosier crop farmers should take pride in the fact that Indiana continues to rank near the top in the production of corn, soybeans, popcorn, tobacco, blueberries, peppermint, spearmint, processing tomatoes, and vegetables for processing. Indiana livestock producers helped put Indiana's rank at the top for hogs, chickens, eggs, and turkeys raised. The information in this annual summary is collected from farmers using surveys throughout the year. The voluntary response and cooperation of Indiana farmers, agricultural business firms, USDA Farm Service Agency County staff, Purdue University County Extension Staff, NASDA Enumerators, and others across the state, make this annual summary possible. The Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service pledges confidentiality of all individual reports.

We are again pleased to feature the pictures from 17 individual 4-H members in Indiana's 2007-2008 Agricultural Statistics Annual Summary. These photographs were exhibited at the 2007 Indiana State Fair.

This is the 82nd edition, which documents Indiana Agriculture in 2007, and is published by the cooperative efforts of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and Purdue University Agricultural Research Programs. The Federal/University cooperative partnership has existed since 1925 and continues to enhance agricultural research programs with State specific statistical projects. It is truly an interesting era in which to be a part of Indiana agriculture. Our office takes great pride in the role they play in serving agriculture with timely, accurate, and unbiased information.

Sincerely,

Greg Preston  
Director  
USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office

